

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN WILD FLOWER BOOKS

The New York Botanical Garden has undertaken the preparation of a series of illustrated books on the wild flowers of the United States (excluding Alaska and Hawaii). The books will be directed to the amateur with little or no botanical training, as well as to the professional scientist in non-botanical fields, and will present wild flowers without the embellishment of technical descriptive terms found in manuals and floras. At the same time the descriptions will be scientifically accurate and the coverage complete within the usual concept of "wild flowers" (excluding grasses, sedges, and unattractive weeds, and, of course, all woody plants). Most species will be illustrated in color, and the very best available color photographs are now being sought. Line drawings will be used to distinguish related species whenever color is inadequate for the purpose. Means of tracing the plant to its family, genus, and species will be included. But the dichotomous keys so useful to the taxonomist and so terrifying to the layman will be conspicuously absent.

It is planned to treat the United States in five regions, a volume being devoted to each: the northeastern states, the southeastern states, the central plains and mountains (including the Rocky Mountains and the Great Basin), the Southwest, and the Pacific Northwest.

A committee headed by Mrs. David Rockefeller has undertaken to obtain the subsidy necessary to ensure publication. The work will be centered at The New York Botanical Garden, under the direction of Harold William Rickett, Senior Botanist. An artist, a photographer, and a secretary will devote all or part of their time to the work. William C. Steere will serve as General Editor. For outstanding illustrations in color the cooperation is sought of amateur and professional photographers of wild flowers in all parts of the country. The first volume will deal with the northeastern states, and color photographs (transparencies) of the wild flowers of this region are now required. Amateurs are urged to send their best "shots" at once to Dr. Rickett.

H. W. Rickett, The New York Botanical Garden.